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Feb. 7, 2011
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GOV. PERDUE ANNOUNCES $8.5 MILLION FOR ENERGY PROJECTS
Federal Recovery Funds Will Cut Utility Bills, Create Jobs, and Promote Alternative Energy Sources

RALEIGH – Gov. Bev Perdue announced today the North Carolina Energy Office has awarded $8.5 million in federal Recovery Act funds to 43 public and private agencies to make downtown local government and small businesses more energy efficient, promote conservation and use of renewable fuels in industrial buildings and provide for greater energy efficiency in commercial and large nonprofit facilities.

"These investments are more than much-needed job creating investments in our communities," said Gov. Perdue. "These projects also will make businesses and government facilities more energy efficient, which holds down costs and helps -- particularly during these challenging economic times -- control government spending on utilities."

North Carolina has distributed nearly 90 percent of the federal Recovery Act funds it has been allocated through the State Energy Program and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant programs. Theses most recent project awards are estimated to inject $16.1 million into the state's economy through three N.C. Energy Office initiatives:
- $3.9 million through 17 "Main Street" projects that build on the existing Main Street Program coordinated by the Division of Community Assistance in the N.C. Department of Commerce.
- $7.8 million through the 15 "commercial renewables initiatives" to implement energy conservation projects that invest in renewable technology
- $4.4 million through 11 "Energy Efficiency for Commercial, Industrial and Non-Profits" projects to provide significant energy savings and job creation for contractors working with the businesses to improve building efficiency.

MAIN STREET PROJECTS ($3.9 million) (to be matched by at least 50 percent from other sources):